total amount spent in the import of edible oils including oils for vanaspati industry is Rs. 585.47 crores.

(b) Government has been encouraging use on non-conventional oils in vanaspati industry to save foreign exchange. Substantial incentives for use of these oils in vanaspati has been provided.

Root Wilt Diseases of coconut

1848. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dreadful coconut diseases, including the root-wilt disease, are rapidly afflicting the coconut cultivation in most parts of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps Government have taken so far and with what result and also what steps Government intend to take in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Root-wilt disease is spreading slowly and steadily. An area of about 2.5 lakh ha. has been affected in 8 Southern districts of Kerala.

(c) Since the Fifth Five Year Plan Government of India has sanctioned various schemes for rehabilitation of diseased coconut gardens. So far an area of 66,000 ha. has been covered under rejuvenation scheme and 2.70 lakh diseased palms have been removed. A vigil is being kept by Field Station of Central Plantation Crops Research Institute on the spread of the disease in areas beyond north of Trichur. A project for Integrated Farming for Small holdings is being implemented in 10,000 ha. Government of India has so far sanctioned Rs. 225 lakh to combat the disease. The project for Integrated Farming for small holdings will be implemented in the remaining two years of the Seventh Five Year Plan also.

Distribution of money under Paddy Insurance Scheme in Kerala

1849. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money distributed in each Taluk or districts of Kerala under the Paddy Insurance Scheme of the Government of India during the last three years, year-wise and Taluk-wise;

(b) the number of persons benefited as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from cultivators of Kerala that the scheme as formulated with Talukas as he basis for assessing crop loss is not very much helpful to the paddy cultivators in that State; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Taluka-wise or District-wise information as to the amount distributed for Paddy crops, during the last three years in Kerala under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is not available. However, year-wise details regarding number of farmers covered, sum insured (which is 150 per cent of the loan amount) and the indemnity claims paid in respect of the Paddy crops in Kerala since 1-4-1985 under the CCIS may be seen in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No complaint from the cultivators of Kerala has been received, in this regard. A suggestion was, how been received sometime back for implementing the CCIS on individual basis. This was not agreed to because, the CCIS is an area based scheme. It can be operated only in those notified areas of a State for which adequate yield data for a given crop for last 3/5 years is available and the State Government would conduct a minimum of 16 crop cutting experiments for a given crop in each of such areas, at the end of the season.

Statement

Sl. No.	Year	No. of farmers (covered)	Sum Insured (Rs. in lakh)	Claims paid (Rs. in lakh)
1	1985-86	47,839	1101.00	39.19
2	1986-87	49,300	1552 27	132.71
3	1987-88 (As on 15-1-88)	26,637	959 15	10.43

Writing off 80 crores invested in Sindri Rationalisation Project

1850. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state::

(a) whether the Department of Fertilizers has submitted a proposal to write-off Rs. 80 crores invested in Sindri Rationalisation Project as the plant is beyond redemption because of serious technical snags;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the decision taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to institute any enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir; there is such a proposal.

(b) The proposal is to write off:—

(i) assets of Rs. 58.50 crores (Rs. 30.60 crores as equity and Rs. 27.90 crores as loan); and

(ii) accumulated losses of Rs. 86.10 crores suffered by the plant during 1979-80 to 1986-87.

No decision has been taken by the Government.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

Scarcity of Milk in Drought hit States

1851. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the States, especially the drought hit States, are facing scarcity of milk and milk products;

(b) if so, what is the estimated shortages of milk in various States and how Government propose to maintain the supply of milk;

(c) what actions are proposed to be taken to save the cattle wealth for sustaining the milk supply; and

(d) whether Government are planning to avail milk powder and cattle wealth as part of the foreign aid and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) There had been fall in the availability of milk and milk products during the last drought period. However, there are indications that the situation is improving now.

(b) The steps which had been taken by the Government to ease the situation included (a) liberalisation of procurement prices, (b) augment availability of liquid milk, (c) peg